(c) whether the Government have received any business proposals from Australia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). All aspects of Indo-Australia bilateral relationship were discussed in the last meeting of Indo-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission held at Canberra in July, 1989. The two sides agreed to strive for doubling bilateral trade turn-over by 1998 and identified areas such as biotechnology, electronics, alternative sources of energy, control for environmental pollution, for cooperation. The Australians also agreed to provide assistance for better projection in Australia of Indian capabilities to produce a diverse range of products. At the trade level, the 5th meeting of the India-Australia J.B.C. was held at New Delhi during September 3-4, 1991. Working Groups on Consumer goods and software, services and agriculture and related industry discussed to ways & means for expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

**Tewari Commission Report on Cantonment Board, Kanpur**

4857. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the S.M. Tewari Commission Report about insanitation and polluted water supply by the Kanpur Cantonment Board has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action initiated by the Government against the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) On receipt of complaint, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Kanpur, had directed a Metropolitan Magistrate to inspect the alleged unhygenic conditions to Kanpur Cantonment and submit a report to him. No report has been received either by the Cantonment Board or the Government so far.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

**Setting up of Mint at Mysore**

4858. SHRIMATI CHANDARA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank on India has started the work on the construction of a Mint at Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent so far;

(c) the total amount required to complete the project;

(d) the time by which the Mint is likely to start functioning; and

(e) the amount earmarked for the above work during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There is no proposal with the Government to set up a Mint at Mysore.

(b) to (e). Do not arise in view reply to (a) above.

**Indo-French Economic ties**

4859. SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have decided to improve the economic ties between the two countries and to diversify the on going collaborations and joint ventures through transfer of technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks have been held in this regard between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). The meetings of the Indo-French Joint Business Council and Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi in October 1991 and Paris in November 1991 respectively have identified areas such as computer software, food processing, telecommunications, pollution control, solar energy and agro industry amongst others for enhanced Indo-French economic collaboration. This was re-emphasised by the Prime Minister of India and the French president during their talks in Paris in November, 1991.

**Export Potential of Andhra Pradesh**

4860. SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has a great potential for export of Tobacco, Vegetables, Yarn and ready-made garments; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage export of the above items from that State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tobacco Board, APEDA, TEXPROCIL and the AEPC have been set up, inter alia, to promote exports of tobacco, vegetables, yarn and ready-made garments respectively. Action system has been introduced through the Tobacco Board.

A package of trade policy measures have been introduced aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and to encourage exports. These measures also applies to exports from the State of Andhra Pradesh. The new EXIM scrips will facilitate access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts. The exchange rate adjustments will a also benefit exporters of those items.

**Construction of Roads/Bridges in Andhra Pradesh**

4861. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals sent by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for construction of roads/bridges in the State with Central assistance;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) a statement is enclosed.